



Press Release

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Idaho's 2008 Potato Crop Valued at \$833 Million

The final value of Idaho's 2008 potato crop was a record \$833 million, exceeding 1995's \$822 million and \$33.2 million above 2007's value of \$800 million. The market year average price received by growers was also a record, at \$7.15 per cwt, above 1989's \$7.10 per cwt and the 2007 level of \$6.15 per cwt. Idaho's growers sold 108 million cwt from their 2008 crop while using 908,000 cwt on the farm for seed, feed and household consumption. The remaining 7.15 million cwt was lost to shrinkage, decay and dumping. Fresh market sales accounted for 30.7 million cwt of the 2008 crop, down 3 percent from the 2007 crop, and processing accounted for 68.2 million cwt, down 13 percent from the 2007 crop. Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon used a total of 77.3 million cwt of 2008 crop potatoes compared to 88.0 million cwt used in 2007. Of the total processed, 68.2 million cwt were Idaho potatoes. Processing in Idaho and Malheur County accounted for 58.5 percent of Idaho's production compared to 60.3 percent of the 2007 crop. Idaho's 2008 production of 116 million cwt accounted for 31 percent of the entire U.S. Fall production of 379 million cwt. The Pacific Northwest; Idaho, Washington, and Oregon, collectively, totaled 228 million cwt or 60 percent of the U.S. Fall production.

For the United States, the value of all potatoes produced from the 2008 crop is estimated at \$3.77 billion, up 13 percent from the previous year. The average price, at \$8.42 per cwt, is up \$0.91 from 2007. Sales from the 2008 potato crop totaled 384 million cwt, down 7 percent from 2007. Processors used 253 million cwt of raw potatoes from the 2008 crop, down 8 percent from a year earlier. Table stock sales totaled 109 million cwt, 1 percent below the previous year. Seed sales of 20.9 million cwt are down 6 percent from 2007. Sales for livestock feed, at 803,000 cwt, decreased 31 percent from a year earlier. Shrinkage and loss are estimated at 26.4 million cwt for 2008, down 11 percent from 2007. Potatoes used for livestock feed on farms where grown and home use totaled 823,000 cwt, 26 percent below the previous season. Growers kept 3.32 million cwt for seed on their own farms, 11 percent higher than a year earlier.